

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

*Re: Recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks, EB Docket No. 06-119 and WC Docket No. 06-63.*

Today's item marks an important step towards ensuring that the Commission and the industries it is responsible for are better prepared to respond in the face of natural disasters and other types of incidents, such as a pandemic, industrial accident, environmental incident, or terrorist attack. I am proud to vote in support of an item which, I believe, reflects the best aspects of the Independent Panel's report and the subsequent input from a diverse array of commenters.

When we released the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that led to today's order, I specifically asked and encouraged industry to develop and share their thoughts, strategies and ideas on disaster preparedness and emergency system interoperability. While the industry certainly stepped to the plate, they were matched in their expertise, passion, and innovation by a diverse array of public safety agencies, federal and state government agencies, equipment manufacturers, and concerned citizens. This diversity and depth of participation in this proceeding created a record which led to an item which I think everyone should be proud of, and marks a standard which we should strive to achieve across the board.

Finally, I would like to again thank Nancy Victory and the members of the Independent Panel for all of their efforts. I hope and trust that they will take pride and, to some extent, comfort in the fact that they have played such a key role in helping to prepare our Nation for whatever challenge it faces next.